

**Parks Advisory Committee
May 27, 2009
6:30 PM
Minutes**

Call to order: Mr. Deeds called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Turner	Card	Boumis	
	Luehrs	Bolin	Byrd	Donahue
	Baltzer	Bumpus	Paini	Toledo
	Ebert	Deeds	Mershon	

- Mr. Peters, Ms. Parker, Mrs. Rush-Ekelberry, Mr. Peoples and Dr. Bender were absent.
Also in attendance were Ms. Osborn and Mr. Strayer.

Ms. Boumis moved to approve the minutes from the April 22nd, 2009 meeting. Mr. Paini seconded the motion.

Motion passed with all AYES.
(Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Mershon abstained.)

Mayor's Opening Remarks

Mayor Ebert thanked everyone for coming and being part of the committee.

New Items for Discussion

09-03 Comprehensive Plan Review: Existing Land Use Plan and how to use it to identify park land, targeted properties for parks, land currently available for a park.

Mr. Strayer presented the Plan Review and Existing Land Use Plan. (It did not include the most recent update to the comprehensive plan as it has not been approved by Council.)

Facilities:

- Swimming pool – completed
- Community scale park - Walnut Creek park (partially complete)
- 10 acre park on Groveport Road – Hanners (complete)
- Construct 7 new neighborhood parks (partially complete) - Westchester Park, Stradley Park,
- Develop series of 1-2 acre mini parks to highlight historic landmarks and significant green spaces – Interurban, historical society area (partially complete)

Pathways:

- Establish a multi-use pathway system in the floodway fringe (not complete)
- Establish a multi-use pathway system to connect to Groveport. (Partially complete)

Parks & Recreation:

- Parks and Rec. hire full-time parks director (not completed)

Development requirements

- Develop an agreement with the school district for joint acquisition of land. (Not complete)
- Establishing a floodway fringe of 50ft in all new developments (partially complete)

Future Planning and Zoning improvements

- Create a parks program that included a detailed list of number of parks, types and a phasing schedule for implementation. (partially complete)
- Create Greenspace Preservation Ordinance (partially complete)
- Defensible standards for park dedication amounts (completed)
- Acquisition and public control of canal lands, stream corridors and floodplain (partially completed)
- Establish a list of possible floodplain parks (not completed)

Mr. Leuhrs asked what the standards are for park dedication. Mr. Strayer gave an example with the Diley Road. It was asked who makes the decision if cash is taken in lieu of the green space development and if that has happened before. Mr. Strayer stated that the Mayor and / or Council make that decision. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Strayer stated that the bike path is under construction along Groveport Road. The Village has acquired all of the right of way needed to connect with the Village of Groveport with the exception of a portion of land owned by Mr. Stebleton.

It was asked what defines green space in the green space preservation ordinance. Mr. Strayer stated that it isn't specifically defined. It could be vacant, un-built land. It could be repairing the corridors, sensitive soils, etc.

Mr. Strayer stated that the Riparian Corridor is anything along a stream's edge that would be considered in the flood way and beyond that. Some communities choose a set number of feet from the bank of the river. We have made ours a calculation that takes into consideration the stream width and the width of the flood way and more.

09-04 Parks Revenue and Expenses – Review of last six years revenue and expenses

A spreadsheet was presented detailing the revenue and expenses of Parks.

Ms. Osborn stated that in October 1997, Council passed a resolution that stated that for a period of 5 years, they would designate a percentage of 1% of the income tax that the Village received as follows: 40% to infrastructure improvements, 30% to police and safety, 25% to Parks and Rec. and 5% to be set aside for emergency. Council has attempted to continue that even though we are far out of the initial 5 years. Ms. Osborn read through the attached spreadsheet. Discussion ensued.

The Village has used Clean Ohio grants to acquire two different parcels that we will be able to set aside to never be developed along Walnut Creek Park, known as George Bareis Preserve.

It was asked if there was ever some consideration of raising the .25% used for Parks and Rec. so that it isn't in the red. Ms. Osborn stated that they really haven't, mostly because there are other areas that are in the same situation. It takes more than .30% to fund the policing of the Village. We have been very creative in finding the funds from other areas to make it all come together. Mr. Deeds stated that they would rather not lock themselves into a higher percentage. They will just spend the .25% and when necessary, over-fund it from the General Fund.

It was asked what the budget surplus was for the Village. Ms. Osborn stated it was 2.6 million dollars in the General Fund, grown from \$300,000 in 2004. The goal was to hold the amount it would take to operate for three months.

What Greenspace should be park land?

Mr. Deeds noted that this assignment was created to get people thinking about what green space is out there that should be a park and / or what green space may already be a park but may have a different use.

Mr. Leuhrs stated that he would like to see the Riparian Corridor from the High School to Old Walnut Inn/ Old Town Tavern used for pathway / park areas.

Ms. Boumis asked to hear from the Recreation District to find out what their plans are for expansion and uses. That will help us to know whether we need to be looking for areas that can be multi-use fields. Do they plan on trying to get a levy passed to buy land themselves or are they planning on leasing land from the Village of Canal Winchester? The answers to these questions will help in formulating other ideas.

Mr. Toledo handed out financial statements and stated that they are in the infancy stages of development. Their goal is to have recreation for everyone, not just kids. The men's basketball program sells out in the first three days. That shows the desire for more adult recreation programming. He will be presenting more information at the next Parks meeting.

Mr. Baltzer asked if there are outside and inside facilities or if there are those types of facilities being planned. Mr. Toledo stated that since they serve the entire school district, they use the school facilities often. Money from each registration goes toward fees for using that facility.

Mr. Leuhrs asked how much land the school district has around the schools that can be used for things like tennis courts. Mr. Toledo stated that they already use a lot of the school land. They built the football field behind the elementary schools. Walnut Creek was built near the schools so that they would have some extra places to go for soccer. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Ebert stated that he met with the school district last week and they have no intention of putting tennis courts on school grounds. They don't have the money to do it and they don't want to let someone else put them on school grounds, even if they didn't have to pay for them at all, because the perception would be that the school funded them. Discussion ensued.

It was asked what the Recreation's biggest need is right now... baseball diamonds, basketball courts, soccer fields, etc. Mr. Toledo stated that they have baseball fields and if they put lights up there they would be more usable. Soccer has become huge in this area and we can use more area. It was asked if we own the fields behind Kroger. We do not. That land is donated temporarily until the land sells.

It was asked if it would be better to have on centrally located park with several multi-use fields or to have several smaller parks to spread out the kids. They stated that ideally, we would have one large centrally located park that could be used for tournaments. Further discussion ensued.

Parking issues with various parks were discussed as well.

Other Business:

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Mr. Paini moved to adjourn this meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee and was seconded by Mrs. Turner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.